

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A medication dispensing apparatus comprising:
a housing;
a drive member within said housing and movable in a distal direction;
a fluid container defining a medicine-filled reservoir with a movable piston at one end and an outlet at the other end, said piston engageable by said drive member to be advanced toward said outlet a distance equal to a distal movement of said drive member when said drive member is moved distally;

means for driving said drive member distally, said driving means including a plunger element and a gear set shiftable with the plunger element;

a latching element including a latching lip and a skid;
said drive member including an axially extending, skid-engaging surface along which said skid is slidable as said drive member passes distally during advancement, said skid-engaging surface having an axial length and a proximal end, said drive member along said axial length structured and arranged with said skid so as to maintain said latching lip against a spring force in a first position free of said driving means during dose preparing and injecting prior to a final dose administration; and

wherein said skid-engaging surface shifts distally of said skid such that said skid passes beyond the proximal end upon administration of a final dose, whereby said latching lip is urged by said spring force from said first position to a second position to physically lock said driving means to prevent further dose preparing and injecting, wherein in said second position said latching lip engages a latchable element disposed on said plunger element.

2. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said proximal end of said skid-engaging surface comprises a proximal end of said drive member.

3. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said skid is disposed distally of said latching lip.

4. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said skid comprises a blade shape member that extends axially, and wherein said latching lip comprises a transversely extending flange.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The medication dispensing apparatus of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 wherein said latchable element comprises a ramped distal face over which said latching lip is cammable to reach a latching engagement with said latchable element.

7. (Currently Amended) The medication dispensing apparatus of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 wherein said latching element is axially fixed to said housing by at least one flange fit into a slot provided in said housing.

8. (Currently Amended) The medication dispensing apparatus of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 wherein said spring force acting on said latching element comprises a resiliency of said latching element tending to return said latching lip to a neutral arrangement.

9. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 8 wherein said latching element comprises a one piece metal stamping.

10. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said skid-engaging surface is smooth.

11. (Previously Presented) The medication dispensing apparatus of claim 1 wherein said latching lip comprises a rim along an opening through which a latchable element extends to reach a latching engagement with said latching element.